

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0021] on page 5 with the following paragraph:

[0021] Fig. 4a illustrates characteristic line of the oxygen uptake of an O₂-scavenger in dependence on time, which serves for characterising the material.

Please replace paragraph [0022] on page 5 with the following paragraph:

[0022] The device according to the invention for characterising OSI-material is schematically shown in the Figs. 1 to 3, wherein the different figures represent different method flow conditions. The device consists of a reaction circuit 1 and a measurement circuit 2. A first switch-over branch and/or circuit 3 and a second switch-over branch which is indicated a sample loop 4 may be switched in each case between the reaction circuit 1 and the measurement circuit 2.

Please replace paragraph [0023] on pages 5-6 with the following paragraph:

[0023] The reaction circuit 1 forms a closed reaction circulation and consists of a pump 5, of a transparent measurement cell 6 or one which is transparent for selected wavelength regions, of the sample loop 4 or the switch-over branch and/or circuit 3, of a 6-way valve 7 which is represented as a simulated 6-way valve (equivalent circuit diagram of two 4-way valves and switch-over branch) and switches between the sample loop 4 and the switch-over branch and/or circuit 3, and of a 4-way valve.

Please replace paragraph [0024] on page 6 with the following paragraph:

[0024] The measurement circuit 2 in the shown embodiment example is likewise designed as a closed circuit, and in other embodiments it is conceivable for the measurement circuit to be an open circuit or branch. The measurement circuit comprises a 4-way valve 9 for the removal, the supply and the switching-through of a gas flow, a pump 10, an oxygen-sensitive sensor arrangement 11 which for example may comprise a Mocon-sensor or a Coulox-sensor which are based on an electrochemical principle (the Mocon-sensor builds up a potential difference by way of electrochemical procedures on contact with oxygen, wherein this physical variable is correlated to the oxygen concentration), an evaluation unit 12 which is in connection with the sensor arrangement 11 and e.g. may comprise an

integrator, and a humidification unit 13. As already mentioned above, the 6-way valve 7 which may be switched between the sample loop 4 and the switch-over branch and/or circuit 3, is also a constituent of the measurement circuit 2.

Please replace paragraph [0031] on page 8 with the following paragraph:

[0031] A nitrogen gas flow, preferably 100% nitrogen, is led via the 4-way valve 9 to the measurement circuit 2 and led further by the pump 10, wherein the 6-way valve 7 switches the switch-over branch and/or circuit 3 into the measurement circuit 2. Foreign gas is led out of the measurement circuit 2 via the 4-way valve 9, which is indicated by the white arrows. When the foreign gas has been completely led away, the 4-way valve 9 is switched in a manner such that the introduced gas quantity is circulated in the measurement circuit with the help of the pump 10. This is represented in Fig. 2. The humidification unit 13 exclusively has the task of humidifying the oxygen-sensitive sensor of the sensor arrangement 11.